

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/515,896

Examiner

Tung Vo

Applicant(s)

YONEYAMA ET AL.

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2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed (04/11/2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16 (which were renumbered as 1-7, respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 February 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief, filed 04/11/2005, with respect to claims 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 16 in the previous Office Action has been withdrawn.
2. It is noted that claims 17-26 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of records does not particularly teach or suggest a video coding apparatus for coding a video picture by the use of motion compensatory prediction of each of video pictures with respect to sequentially input video signals, the video coding apparatus comprising: inter-frame variance calculation means for calculating a variance between timewise adjacent frames with respect to the input video signals (see the specification of the present invention, e.g. inter-frame analysis section 32, Figures 4, 7, and 9; page 11, lines 23 to page 12, line 6; and page 14, line 20 to page 15, line 25); intra-frame coding mode decision means for deciding a GOP boundary position when the inter-frame variance exceeds a predetermined value (see the specification of the present invention, e.g. GOP boundary position decision section 33, figs 4, 7 and 9; page 12, lines 7-15; and page 15, line 26-page 16, line 16); and one-way coding (P) frame interval decision means for deciding a P frame interval for carrying out motion compensatory motion coding based on the features between timewise adjacent frames with respect to the input

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video pictures, wherein the P frame interval inside one GOP being decided based on the decision by the P frame interval decision means (see the specification of the present invention, Figs. 4, 7 and 8; page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 1; and page 19, line 18 to page 20, line 26).

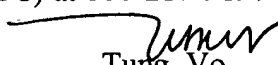
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tung Vo
Primary Examiner
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